

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6222

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, TH

SUBJECT: LABOR DEVELOPMENTS

REF: BANGKOK 12971

SUMMARY: LABOR GROUPS HAVE BEGUN TO TEST THE ATTITUDES AND POLICY OF PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOT'S GOVERNMENT AFTER THREE WEEKS OF RELATIVE LABOR PEACE. END SUMMARY.

1. LEADERS OF THE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR UNIONS OF THAILAND (CLUT) EXPECT TO MEET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR TO SPEED RESOLUTION OF A STRIKE AT THE LUCKY TEXTILE MILL, (REFTEL) ONE OF THAILAND'S LARGEST PRIVATE EMPLOYERS. THE ISSUES CONCERN WAGES, WORKING CONDITIONS AND QUESTIONS OF COMPLIANCE WITH VARIOUS THAI LABOR LAWS, MATTERS THAT WOULD APPEAR WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.

2. CLUT OFFICIALS ALSO PLAN A TWO-DAY MEETING OF LEADERS FROM 145 UNIONS TO DRAFT A NEW LABOR RELATIONS ACT TO REPLACE THE MUCH MALIGNED 1975 LAW. UNION LEADERS HOPE TO COME UP WITH A DRAFT THAT WILL REQUIRE EMPLOYERS TO NEGOTIATE WITH EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDE SANCTIONS AGAINST VIOLATORS AND BRING EMPLOYEES OF THE RTG AND ITS

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STATE ENTERPRISES UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE ACT.

3. IN AN EFFORT TO SPEED UP THE MERGER OF BANGKOK'S
BUS COMPANIES AS PROMISED IN OCTOBER 1975, WORKERS FROM
EIGHTEEN BUS COMPANIES NOT YET INCLUDED IN THE NEW
METROPOLITAN BUS COMPANY WENT ON STRIKE TUESDAY, MAY 11.
AFTER THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS PROMISED THE GOVERN-
MENT WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE MERGER
WITHIN TWO MONTHS, STRIKERS APPEARED SATISFIED AND HEADED
BACK TO WORK.
WHITEHOUSE

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